Internal audit system of BCL

2183. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the disclaimer by the statutory auditor ir the annual reports of Messrs. Bengal Chemicals Limited of 1996-97 and 1997-98, regarding in adequacy of the internal audit system; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the internal audit system and reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) The Government have noted the disclaimer by Statutory Auditor in paragraph 15 of the Annexure to the Statutory Auditors Report on the accounts of BCPL for 1996-97 and 1997-98 regarding inadequacy of interna! audit system.

(b) BCPL has already strengthened the Internal Audit Department by giving its additional charge to Chief Manager (Finance). The Internal Audit Department has already made 7 reports so far during 1998-99.

Approved prices of medicine

2184. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the approved prices of Aquasol A Caps and Injection, Glynase Tablets, Doxy-I Caps., Quiniodochlor Tabs. Ac-tified and Actilex range and at what prices they are being sold;

(b) the date from which overcharging is going on and why has his Ministry failed to check it; and

(c) the amount overcharged and the steps taken by Government to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) The present notified prices of Aquasol A Caps, of 30's (bottles) Aquasol A Caps of 250's (bottles) and Aquasol Injection for 2 ml Amp. are Rs. 11.30, Rs, 81.69 and Rs. 2.60 respectively. No price has been fixed for Glynase Tablets due to a stay order from the Hon'ble Mumbai High Court. In respect of Doxy-1 Caps ceiling price has been fixed at the rate of Rs. 11.30 for 8's AL Strip, Rs. 11.06 for AIVBL strip. For Quiniodochlor Tabs, the ceiling price fixed, is Rs. 9.58 per 20's strip/PG. Actified range of formulations are not under price control.

(b) and (c) As and when overcharging cases come to the notice of the Government necessary action to recover the over-charged amount under provisions of DPCO'95 is initiated against the defaul- ter. In one case of Doxy-1 Caps a company has been issued a SCN for overcharging and further action is being taken as per law.

Bulk drugs at reasonable prices

2185. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps the Department of Chemicals and petrochemicals (DCP) has taken so far to meet the growing requirement of bulk drugs at reasonable prices;

(b) whether Government have decided to delicense and dereserve certain bulk drugs which at present are reserved for production exclusively by the public sector IDPL;

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating which drugs are produced indigenously and which medicines are still required to be imported; and

(d) the steps taken so far to break nexus between MNCs and bulk drugs producing companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) For ensuring availability of drags at reasonable prices, the Govt, has been promulgating Drugs (Prices Control) Order under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from time to time. The current order known as Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1955 was promulgated on 6th January, 1995. At present, 74 drugs alongwith their formulations identified by the application of criteria in para 22.7.2 of "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" are under price control. To ensure more availability of drugs at competitive and reasonable prices, the pharmaceutical sector has been totally delicenced except for few items. This will encourage more units to come up in the pharmaceutical sector. Moreover, under the present Exim Policy, most of the drugs can be imported without a licence.

(b) and (c) The Government is reviewing the policy of licensing and reserving certain bulk drugs for manufacture by public sectors.

(d) No such instances of nexus between multinational companies and the bulk drugs producing companies has come to the notice of the Government.

Shortage of Fertilizers

2186. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports of shortage of fertilizers/DAP from farmers' organisation and State Governments;

(b) if so, the names of organisations/ State Governments that have reported shortages; and

(c) the details of immediate steps being taken by Central Government to meet the situation without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Except urea all other fertilizers including Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) are decontrolled. Their availability and distribution is dependent on the market forces of demand and supply operating within the parameters of Concession Scheme of Government of India.

In Kharif '98, shortages were reported of MOP by the Southern States, and also by the States of Orissa, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Shortages were also reported by North Eastern Fertilizers Dealers' Association, Guwahati and Coconut Growers Associations, Pollachi. Shortages were also reported of Sulphate of Potash (SOP) by the Karnataka Grapes Growers Association, Bangalore.

During Rabi 1998-99, temporary shortages of DAP had/have been reported by the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Utta. Pradesh.

(c) Shortages of MOP during Kharif '98 were mainly due to lower level of its imports. The MOP imports have been lined up since then and there are no shortages being experienced during the current season. In respect of SOP, the shortage was redressed during Kharif '98 after the arrival of additional quantities which Indian Potash Limited (IPL) had managed. Since then there has been no problem of availability of SOP.

For tackling the localised shortages of DAP in the aforesaid States, the Government took the following measures:—

(i) Priority was accorded in berthing of DAP vessels at JNPT and Vizag.

(ii) The priority was accorded in movement by rail of DAP from both the plants and the ports to these States.

(iii) Additional imports of 55,000 MTs of DAP have been arranged from Jordan on priority through IPL.